

HERE WE COME!

Set up the room with chairs in a circle, including one bigger chair for the teacher. Play a few bars of music and then stop it. When the music stops, everyone moves one chair to the right. Each time someone new will be in the teacher's chair.

SCRIPTURE WORDS AND WORSHIP

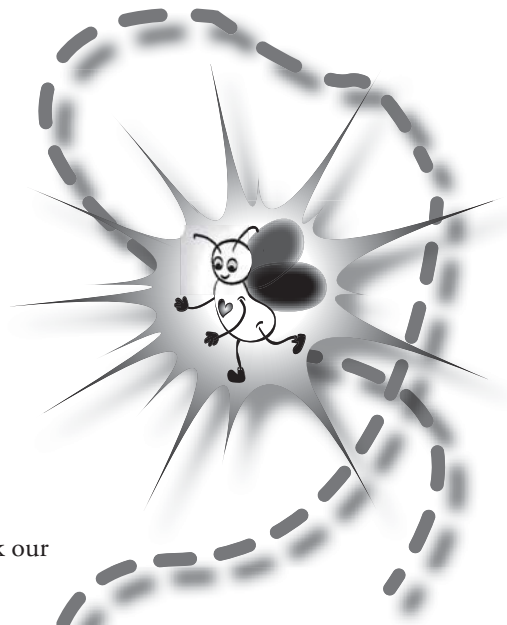
Print the words on cutouts of praying hands. Use a picture of Jesus for "Lord."

STORY TALKING

Children like to pretend to be the teacher. Use the song "This Is the Way" to provide opportunities for each child to teach a verse. "This is the way we cook our food, wash the dog, pick the flowers, play the keyboard."

UP AND AT 'EM

Play a game of Follow the Leader. The leader is like the teacher helping the children know what to do next. Sing "Climb, Climb Up Jesus Mountain."



JESUS IS OUR TEACHER

Climb, Climb Up Jesus Mountain

Adapted Traditional Melody

Climb, climb up Je - sus' moun - tain, lis - ten as we
go. Climb, climb up Je - sus' moun - tain,
take his hand and grow. Je - sus is there to teach us.
Look to him on high. Climb, climb up
Je - sus' moun - tain, You and I.

Jesus came to earth in person to teach us the way to go.

Scripture Words

Lord, teach us to pray.
—Luke 11:1 NRSV

LIVE AND LEARN

Praying Like Jesus by Marge Nelson

Adapted from the scripture in Matthew 6:9–13

Jesus and the disciples had been traveling all day. Jesus had been teaching people, telling stories, and healing the sick. Often after a day like this, Jesus would go off by himself to pray, and the disciples would wait for him.

“I wonder what it would be like to talk to God the way Jesus does,” said Simon.

“It must be wonderful,” said Andrew.

“He talks to God as if he was having a conversation.”

Jesus came back to the group and sat down with them. James got him a drink of water.

“Lord,” said Matthew, “when we pray, we are not sure what we should be saying to God. Will you teach us to pray?”

Jesus looked at his disciples lovingly. There was so much yet to learn. How could he teach them to talk to God? He thought for a minute and then said, “Pray in this way. Speak to God as a parent who loves you.

‘Our Father in heaven, holy is your name.’

“Before you ask for anything for yourselves, pray for what God wants. Say,

‘May your kingdom come soon.

May your will be done here on earth just as it is done in heaven.’

“God knows you have needs before you ask.

But you can ask anyway.

‘Give us this day our daily bread to eat.’

“It’s always important to ask God to forgive you. No matter how hard you try to be good, you will always make mistakes. God is willing to forgive you, but also expects you to forgive others. You can pray,

‘Forgive us for what we owe you and have not paid,

as we also forgive those who owe things to us and have not yet paid.’

“It’s not important that you say these exact words. Just keep the ideas in your heart while you pray. You may find that a special feeling comes over you. You feel comfortable and loved in God’s presence. It’s a wonderful place to be. That’s why I like to talk to God often.”

The disciples wanted to remember Jesus’ words. They took turns repeating what he had taught them and then said the prayer together.

SENSE-ACTIONS

Bring in different kinds of bread to sample. Bread in Jesus’ time was flat and hard, sometimes raised with yeast, and often used to dip in sauces. Pieces were torn from the loaf as it was passed around. Butter would have been rare, but olive oil was sometimes used.

Give each child a copy of the Lord’s Prayer picture on the following page. Cloth can be added to the picture of the child or a chenille stem can be glued in place of the staff.

MOVING MUSIC

Simple words can be put to familiar tunes the children enjoy. Add rhythm, action, and movement to make it more fun.

Jesus Is Our Teacher and Friend

(Tune: “Mulberry Bush”)

Jesus is our teacher and friend,
Teacher and friend,
Teacher and friend.

Jesus is our teacher and friend;
He teaches us what to do.

Jesus Is Our Teacher

(Tune: “Ring Around the Rosie”)

Jesus is our teacher
And our favorite preacher.
We love him.
We love him.
Yes, we do!

THERE WE GO

Give each child a roll or hunk of bread in a napkin to share with family and others. The child can offer the bread, and the person can tear off their own piece.

Jesus taught us to pray.

